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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 636
By Burchett

A RESOLUTION to encourage the University of Tennessee Board of Trustees and the Tennessee Department of Transportation to review the proposed construction of a four-lane connector for automobile traffic between the UT Knoxville agricultural campus and the main campus.

WHEREAS, recently the University of Tennessee Board of Trustees and the Tennessee Department of Transportation approved plans to construct a four-lane connector for automobile traffic between the UT Knoxville agricultural campus and the university's main campus; and

WHEREAS, it is widely believed that the effects of such a connector would substantially increase automobile traffic on both campuses, reducing the safety of bicyclists and pedestrians, make pedestrian movement on the agricultural campus more difficult and dangerous, and generally reduce the environmental quality of both campuses; and

WHEREAS, an overwhelming majority of people responding to a recent campus survey stated they strongly oppose the construction of the connector between the two campuses; and

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WHEREAS, the UTK Graduate and Undergraduate Student Associations have strongly voiced their opposition to the connector, while 95% of 300 faculty and staff members polled indicated that they were also opposed to the project; and

WHEREAS, another poll reported in an article published in the school newspaper, *The UT Daily Beacon*, indicated that 72% of UTK's students oppose the construction, while only 8.4% favor it; and

WHEREAS, members of the Cherokee Nation are also opposed to the connector, fearing that it would disrupt ancestral burial grounds and an historic burial mound; and

WHEREAS, opponents of the connector have offered reasonable alternatives to its construction, based on faculty and public input, which favor less intrusive means of transport; one alternative includes the construction of a connector that would be limited to emergency and service vehicles, trolley cars, assistance vehicles, bikes and pedestrians, thus saving the university and ultimately the taxpayers of Tennessee nearly \$12 million in demolition and reconstruction costs, along with much of the \$9 million to be spent on the construction of a four-lane bridge; and

WHEREAS, in light of the budget crisis currently facing this state, this General Assembly strongly believes it is incumbent upon the various state entities to exercise prudence in all areas of spending; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we hereby request the University of Tennessee Board of Trustees and the Tennessee Department of Transportation to review the proposed construction of a four-lane connector for automobile traffic between the UT Knoxville agricultural campus and the main campus.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That enrolled copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Chairman of the University of Tennessee Board of Trustees and the Commissioner of Transportation with this final clause deleted from such copies.